

Docket 59057
Serial No. 10/615,562

PATENT APPLICATION
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REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action on the merits dated October 4, 2005. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing 5 amendments and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 6-8, 14-17, and 21 have been canceled and claims 1, 9-11, and 18 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1-5, 9-13, and 18-20 remain in this application with claims 1 and 18 being independent.

10 IN THE CLAIMS:

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections:

Claims 1-5, 11, and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kratsch et al, U.S. Pat. No. 5,478,350. Further, claims 1-7 and 11-20 stand rejected under 35 15 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Caruso, U.S. Pat. No. 2,027,470 in view of Kratsch and Zventyatsky, U.S. Pat. No. 5,766,205. However, the examiner has indicated that claims 8-10 and 21 are merely objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, and without admitting the propriety of any of these rejections, 20 claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 8 as well as the limitations of claims 6 and 7 which are intervening. Claims 6-8 have been canceled accordingly. Therefore,

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claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance along with claims 2-5 and 9-13 and such is respectfully requested.

Further, claim 18 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 21 and claim 21 has been canceled. Therefore, claim 18 should now be in condition for allowance along 5 with claims 19 and 20 which depend therefrom and such is respectfully requested. Without admitting the propriety of any of the rejections, claims 14-17 have been canceled as well in order to place this application into immediate condition for allowance.

This application should now be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested. If the examiner has any suggestions that would place this application in even better 10 condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,



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